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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,778	11/26/2003	Henry DaCosta	IMM174	4196

34300 7590 06/28/2006

PATENT DEPARTMENT (51851)
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EXAMINER

WU, XIAO MIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/723,778

Applicant(s)

DACOSTA ET AL.

Examiner

XIAO M. WU

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/10/04; 11/26/03 & 2/28/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-17, 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gillespie et al. (US Patent No. 5,880,411)

As to claims 1, 19, Gillespie discloses a method comprising: receiving a pressure signal (e.g. Z-value, Fig. 1) indicating a pressure from an input device (e.g. finger); comparing the pressure signal to an adaptive pressure threshold value (col. 2, lines 23-32); and outputting a signal if the pressure signal is greater than the adaptive pressure threshold value (col. 24, lines 44-52).

As to claim 2, Gillespie discloses adaptive pressure threshold value (Z_{TH}) is associated with an absolute pressure threshold.

As to claim 3, Gillespie discloses adaptive pressure threshold value is associated with a position received from the input device (e.g. the Z-values is derived from the position signals X and Y).

As to claim 4, Gillespie discloses the adaptive pressure threshold value can vary over time (col. 23, lines 29-31).

As to claim 5, Gillespie discloses the adaptive pressure threshold value is associated with a user identifier (col. 23, lines 31-32).

As to claims 6, 16, 20, 26, Gillespie discloses the adaptive pressure threshold value comprises a first pressure threshold value, and further comprising: comparing the pressure signal to a second pressure threshold value; and outputting the signal if the pressure signal is greater than both the first pressure threshold value and the second pressure threshold value (col. 24, lines 20-60).

As to claim 7, Gillespie discloses the pressure signal comprises a pseudo pressure signal (e.g. the pressure value is varied in accordance with the capacitance value).

As to claim 8, Gillespie discloses supplying a pressure filter (48-1...48-n, Fig. 3) to the pressure signal to create a filtered pressure signal.

As to claims 9-11, 17, 21-22, 27, Gillespie discloses the pressure filter comprises a first pressure filter comprising a first attribute (e.g. high frequency, col. 13, lines 34-44), and further comprising applying a second pressure filter to the pressure signal, the second pressure filter comprising a second attribute (e.g. low frequency, col. 15, line 55) that is different than the first attribute.

As to claims 12, 23, Gillespie discloses applying the pressure filter comprises applying the pressure filter utilizing a sliding window (col. 28, lines 47-58).

As to claim 13, Gillespie discloses the input device comprises a touch pad (10, Fig. 1).

As to claims 14, 24, Gillespie discloses calculating a first value associated with the speed of movement across the input device; comparing the first value to a speed threshold value; and outputting the signal if the first value is less than the speed threshold value (see 362, Fig. 17D).

As to claims 15, 25, Gillespie discloses applying a speed filter to the first value before comparing the speed to the speed threshold value (col. 36, lines 26-47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 18 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillespie et al. (US Patent No. 5,880,411) in view of Fujita et al. (US Patent No. 6,118,435).

As to claims 18 and 28, it is noted that Gillespie does not specifically disclose outputting a signal associated with a haptic effect, the haptic effect based at least in part on the pressure signal.. Fujita is cited to teach a touch panel device similar to Gillespie. Fujita further discloses a signal associated with a haptic effect, the haptic effect based at least in part on the pressure signal (see abstract and Fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Gillespie with the tactile force feedback as taught by Fujita so as to provide an interaction between the user and the computer.

Information Disclosure Statement

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6. The information disclosure statements filed 11/26/2003 and 3/10/2004 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The US 6,128,007, 6,492,979, 6,509,847, 6,801,191 are cited to teach a touch panel device.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to XIAO M. WU whose telephone number is 571-272-7761. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHARD HJERPE, can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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X.W.

June 26, 2006



XIAO M. WU
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629